

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-15, 19-21, 23-24 and 26-27 remain in the case. Claims 5, 10, 16-18, 22 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice (claims 5 and 10 in a previous Response). Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

#### Formal Rejections

The drawings are objected to as not showing the "circumferential recess" of claim 2 and 20 and that the walls are formed of polycarbonate.

Applicant submits that the circumferential recess is shown and directs the Examiners attention to reference numeral 13 of Fig. 1. The specification describes a collar that may be indented. Fig. 1 illustrates leash 38 anchored in this circumferential indentation or recess.

With respect to showing polycarbonate material, Applicant asks the Examiner for guidance. Allen, for example, is cited at teaching use of polycarbonate and Applicant's drawings are similar to those presented in Allen.

The description of Figs. 2A-2D has been amended as helpfully pointed out by the Examiner.

Regarding the \$112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 2 and 20, Applicant submits that the comments above re item 13 and subtle amendments to claims 2 and 20 herein overcome this rejection. Claim 20 has also been amended to address any antecedent basis issues.

#### Substantive Rejections

Claims 1, 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Goto '641 and Allen.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly define and distinguish the tapered sections and to include that:

"wherein said inner wall is formed integrally with said base and said outer wall is coupled to said base by a first weld."

In Goto, the inner and outer walls are crimped together. In Allen, the outer wall is formed integrally with a structure that receives the lid and extends **inwardly** to receive the inner wall. In the invention of

claim 1, the base is formed integrally with the inner wall so that the coupling of the outer wall is done **outwardly** of the inner wall permitting greater access, ease of use and speed of assembly.

Furthermore, Goto teaches an inner wall that tapers inwardly, then tapers outwardly (past the maximum diameter of its cylindrical portion at the location where it is crimped to the outer wall). While this inward taper then outward taper may form a lip that prevents drips or is used as a hold during manufacture or assembly, the outward taper teaches away from the continuing inward taper recited in claim 1.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite:

"a seal extension member formed integrally with said base that extends outward from said inner wall."

Applicant respectfully submits that the integral formation and outward extension of the seal extension member (towards the outer wall) are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

Claims 12, 16-18 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being anticipated by Goto '888 in view of Allen '995.

Claim 12 recites in part that:

"wherein said outer wall is comprised of at least a top section and a bottom section, and said top section is coupled via a first weld to said base and said bottom section is coupled to said top section via a second weld; and

wherein said **supplemental surface member** is provided **over said second weld to obscure said second weld from view.**"

Applicant respectfully submits that these limitations are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art. Goto teaches several embodiment of a grip enhancing feature or surface, but does not provide a weld. While Allen has a weld, it is exposed, e.g., there is no supplemental member that covers it or obscures it from view. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 as amended is patentably distinct from the cited art.

Claims 6,15,24 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the references as applied above and further in view of Piker.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 25, rendering claim 24 patentably distinct.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the references as applied above and further in view of Goto '888.

Claim 9 recites that the second weld is "substantially hidden from said exterior of said outer wall by said supplemental surface member." Applicant submits that claim 9 is similar to allowed claim 25 and patentably distinct for the same reasons that claim 25 is patentably distinct.


Applicant submits that the other dependent claims are allowable due to their dependency from allowable independent (and base) claims and further in view of their individual unique and non-obvious combination of limitations.

In view of the foregoing Amendments and these Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-15, 19-21, 23-24 and 26-27 are now in condition for allowance and early notification of same is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would help further the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the listed telephone number.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any fees (including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 for additional claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 including any fee for extension of time) associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0272. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted  
on behalf of Applicant,

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